

Riverside Public Utilities

Community Benefits

Annual Report 2005





Peter G. Hubbard
2004-2005 Board Chairman

The Board of Public Utilities is composed of nine citizens appointed to four-year terms by the City Council to govern utility policies and represent the community.

Our current Board is comprised of the following members:



James W. Anderson
2004-2005 Board Vice Chair



Lalit N. Acharya



David E. Barnhart



Greg Kraft



Conrad F. Newberry, Jr.



Robert A. Stockton



Ken L. Sutter



Joe Tavaglione

City of Riverside Mayor

Ronald O. Loveridge

City of Riverside City Council Members

Dom Betro, Ward 1

Ameal Moore, Ward 2

Art Gage, Ward 3

Frank Schiavone, Ward 4

Ed Adkison, Ward 5

Nancy Hart, Ward 6

Steve Adams, Ward 7

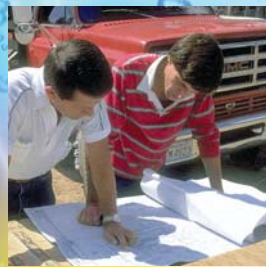
\$35 million goes a long way!

That's how much Riverside Public Utilities (RPU) has invested in the community over the past seven years.

Most of these investments are made possible through Public Benefits funds which are supported by our customers and used to provide an array of programs and services directed towards helping our customers conserve energy and water, and save money.

To participate, you only need to be a RPU electric or water customer. Public Benefit Programs are used to promote Energy Efficiency, Renewable Energy, Research and Development and Low-income Customer Assistance. Public Benefit Funds are collected through a mandated surcharge on customer electric use. The Utility also charges a city-approved water surcharge to support water conservation programs.

\$35 million is a lot of money – and we want to share with you how it has been spent over the last seven years. We're quite sure you will be pleased.



We've made sure Public Benefits funds come back to you

Since 1998, Public Benefits funds have been used to:

Assist low income and special needs customers

- \$3.9 million has helped 24,000 low-income customers pay utility bills
- Reduced electrical rates for customers with special medical needs

Provide rebates to customers to promote energy efficiency and conservation

- Provided \$5.75 million in ENERGY STAR® rebates to 24,400 customers
- Given \$26.5 million in rebates through dozens of programs
- Helped customers save 14.6 million kilowatt-hours (kWh)

Construct renewable energy projects

- Built seven solar photovoltaic power (PV) generation stations with a combined output of 440 kilowatts

Supply shade trees as part of the Tree Power program

- Distributed 36,000 free shade trees which will save customers an estimated 5.6 million kWh each year

Provided scholarships and grants for energy research and development

- Provided nearly \$1.2 million in research grants to local institutions

Educate school children about energy conservation and safety

- Provided instructional materials and interactive displays for in-school instruction to 19,600 Riverside students

Support community groups and events

- Provided \$1.7 million in sponsorships since 1998



We've assisted 24,469 neighbors in need to the tune of \$3.9 million

To help qualified, low-income residents pay their utility bills and deposits, RPU customers have voluntarily donated to the Sharing Households Assist Riverside's Energy (SHARE) Fund Program. The utility supplements those contributions with Public Benefits funds.

*In the past seven years, \$3.9 million
has been **SHARED** with Riverside residents
who needed help.*

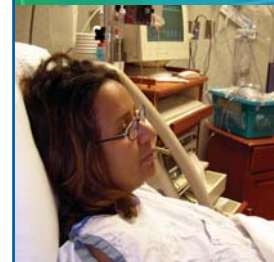
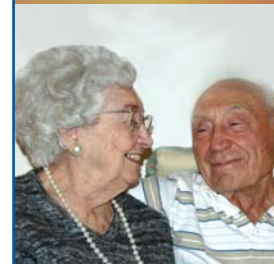
You can help SHARE with a neighbor in need by donating to the SHARE Program on your monthly utility bill.

Special needs neighbors – UTILICARE

Our UTILICARE Program assists hundreds of your Riverside neighbors who depend on life support equipment powered by electricity.

Senior, disabled, or low-income neighbors – WE CARE Program

For seniors, disabled or low-income neighbors, the WE CARE Program is there. It offers a free home energy survey, free weatherization and free conservation products.



We've taught Riverside students about electric safety and energy conservation

Riverside Public Utilities invests in teaching your children how to use energy safely and responsibly, as well as the importance of energy conservation.

Each year, our credentialed Education Coordinator conducts school assemblies, in-classroom instruction, and offers a growing variety of instructional materials to Riverside teachers and fourth grade students.

Since electricity can be especially dangerous for our youngest customers – children, there can be no better use of Public Benefits funds than to teach young children to handle electricity safely.

The Utility's interactive displays, fun handouts, and in-school instructional program has shown 19,600 Riverside children how to be energy safe and powerwise.

*“Riverside Public Utilities takes safety education very **seriously**. But we also want learning about electricity and water resources and conservation to be **fun**.”*

– Public Utilities Director David H. Wright



**Rebecca Cuevas,
Riverside Public Utilities
Education Coordinator**



We've given \$26.5 million in energy efficiency rebates

Public Benefits money is put right back to work into the homes and businesses of our customers.

RPU offers dozens of Public Benefits programs that provide rebates and incentives to residential and business customers to encourage energy efficiency and conservation.

*\$3.5 million in rebates
paid to customers
this year.
14.6 million kWh
conserved equaling \$1.7 million
saved from all energy efficient programs.*

In fact, \$3 of every \$4 collected as Public Benefits funds is given directly back to our customers as rebates or incentives to help residents and businesses save energy and save money.

Program information and applications are available on-line at www.riversidepublicutilities.com

Residential Programs

Cool Cash
Cool Returns
Energy Star®
High Efficiency Clothes
Washer (HECW) Program
Pool Saver
Residential Photovoltaic
(PV) Incentives
School Energy and Water
Program
SHARE
Tree Power for Homes
U-Rate
Ultra-Low-Flush Toilet Incentive
Utilicare
Weather Based Irrigation
Controllers
Weatherization Incentive Rebate
WE CARE

Business Programs

Air Conditioning Incentive
Custom Energy Efficient
Technology Grant
Energy Efficient Construction
Incentives
Energy Efficient Lighting
Incentives
Energy Efficient Motor
Incentives
Energy Innovation Grant
Technical Assistance
Tree Power for Businesses



We've propelled Riverside as a lead city in the use of renewable energy

In just a few short years, RPU has become nationally recognized for its use of renewable green power sources of energy:

*Wind • Water • Landfill Gas
Geothermal • Solar • Tree*

Since 2000, Riverside has steadily increased its use of renewable Green Power sources of energy from zero to 12 percent of our energy portfolio... which is THREE TIMES MORE than the percentage California uses.¹

We're reaching this goal by installing photovoltaic (PV) panels on public and non-profit buildings in Riverside. Some of these buildings include: the La Sierra Metrolink Station, Utilities Operation Center, the Autumn Ridge and Oak Tree Apartments and Shamel Park, Islander Park and Hunt Park swimming pool changing facilities.

Riverside is working to increase our use of renewable energy to 20 percent as early as 2009 – more than eight years sooner than the state mandate of 2017.

¹ "Power Content Label - 2005 Third Quarter Project Purchases", California Energy Commission

We've expanded water conservation programs

Riverside residents who receive their water from the City of Riverside can take advantage of a number of water conservation programs that not only save water but is easy on their pocket books. Programs available for residential customers include installing Ultra-Low-Flush Toilets, a High Efficiency Clothes Washer, and Weather Based Irrigation Controllers.

We are also working with our top 10 water users to decrease their water consumption by 20 percent. The Parks and Recreation Department is currently participating in a pilot program at White Park that involves a system that uses technology to monitor moisture in the air and ground to determine whether landscape watering is necessary.

*To date, White Park has seen a
47 percent water reduction.*

Thanks to the success of the White Park project, we're also doing water audits at two local high schools.

We also cooperate with other water agencies in order to develop long-term water conservation strategies.



We've helped customers save 5.6 million kilowatt-hours of energy by planting trees

Riverside residents and businesses love our Tree Power Program. It offers up to six shade trees per year – a \$150 value – at no cost.

To date, our residential and business electric customers have planted over 36,000 free shade trees around their homes that will save as much as 5.6 million kilowatt-hours of electricity each year when fully grown.

Trees filter air pollution and produce fresh oxygen. Their shade helps cool the soil and saves water by reducing water evaporation.

*Riverside's trees beautify
our community, reduce air conditioning costs, and
improve our environment.*

Planting deciduous shade trees around your property can reduce the amount of energy you will use for cooling in the summer, yet they shed their leaves to let in the sun's warming rays in winter. Estimates are that well-placed trees around a structure can reduce air conditioning or cooling costs by as much as 20 percent.



We've supported emerging innovative technology

Since 2002, the utility has given over \$1.2 million to support research grants to local researchers to advance science and electric technology. Through the Energy Innovation Grant (EIG) program, cutting-edge research, development, and demonstration projects are funded. We are proud to support such innovative creativity.

In July 2004, RPU presented a \$99,106 Energy Innovation Grant to University of California, Riverside (UCR) Assistant Professor of Electrical Engineering Mihri Ozkan to support her multidisciplinary research in electrical engineering.

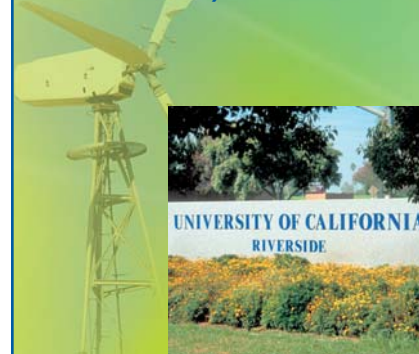
In June, Ozkan received the only national Emerging Scholar Award that the American Association of University Women (AAUW) presents each year. This award recognizes the early professional achievement of a woman scholar with demonstrated excellence in research and teaching.

“We readily support such innovative efforts. Through this research, RPU has the potential to take important steps in providing cleaner and more efficient use of power.”

– Public Utilities Director David H. Wright



Mihri Ozkan, Ph.D.



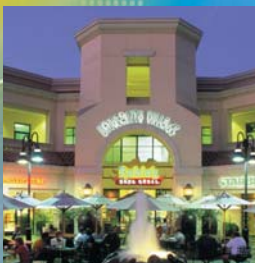
We've shown local businesses how important they are to Riverside's economic development

In the last five years, Riverside Public Utilities' Economic Development Rate was instrumental in attracting or expanding 19 businesses to Riverside that created more than 1,459 new jobs and generated over \$300 million dollars of revenue for the City of Riverside.

The Utility offers 12 energy efficiency business programs that provide significant rebates and cost savings. Business programs can be found on our Web site at www.riversidepublicutilities.com or by calling 826-5485.

*As it has for over a century,
Riverside Public Utilities' continues to supply
reliable power to Riverside's businesses and homes.*

Additionally, the Utility recently completed an \$8 million downtown power upgrade project to modernize electric circuitry equipment from 4 kilovolts to 12 kilovolts to meet Riverside's increasing power needs well into the 21st Century.



We've contributed \$1.7 million over the last seven years to support community organizations and events

RPU works with local community groups and non-profit organizations that enliven, empower and enrich our community.

This year, through cash sponsorships and bottled water donations, RPU contributed \$250,000, supporting 171 community events, of which a percentage of the contributions were from Public Benefit funds. Riverside is a diverse community with a variety of community events such as:

- *Fiesta De La Familia*
- *Mayor's Ball for the Arts*
- *Riverside Air Show*
- *Riverside Black History Committee's Parade and Expo*
- *Riverside County Regional Medical Center Foundation Festival of Trees*
- *Riverside East Rotary Show & Go*
- *Riverside Festival of Lights*
- *Riverside Orange Blossom Festival*
- *Riverside Public Library Foundation Buzz Bee Trivia Contest*
- *Riverside Wednesday Night*
- *YWCA Men Who Cook*

*RPU contributes to programs
that touch the lives
of all who live or work in Riverside.*



And we've supported city public services with \$113.8 million

Investor-owned utilities make money for their investors. Riverside Public Utilities is a municipal utility owned by its customers, so revenues go back to you the customer/owner in the form of a transfer to the City's general fund.

These funds are used for maintaining:

- Police protection
- Fire department and paramedic services
- Public libraries
- Parks and recreation
- Other vital city services

This past year \$22.1 million (\$18.6 million and \$3.5 million of electric and water revenues, respectively) was transferred from Riverside Public Utilities to the city's general fund. This amounted to 16 percent – nearly one-sixth – of all funds available for essential city services.

*Riverside Public Utilities –
Sustaining Riverside's
quality of life.*



*It Pays to be a
Riverside
Public Utilities
Customer!*



It Pays to be a City of Riverside Resident!

Riverside Public Utilities is Committed to the Highest Quality Water and Electric Services at the Lowest Possible Rates to Benefit the Community

3900 Main Street • Riverside, CA 92522 • 951.826.5781 • fax 951.369.0548 • www.riversidepublicutilities.com

